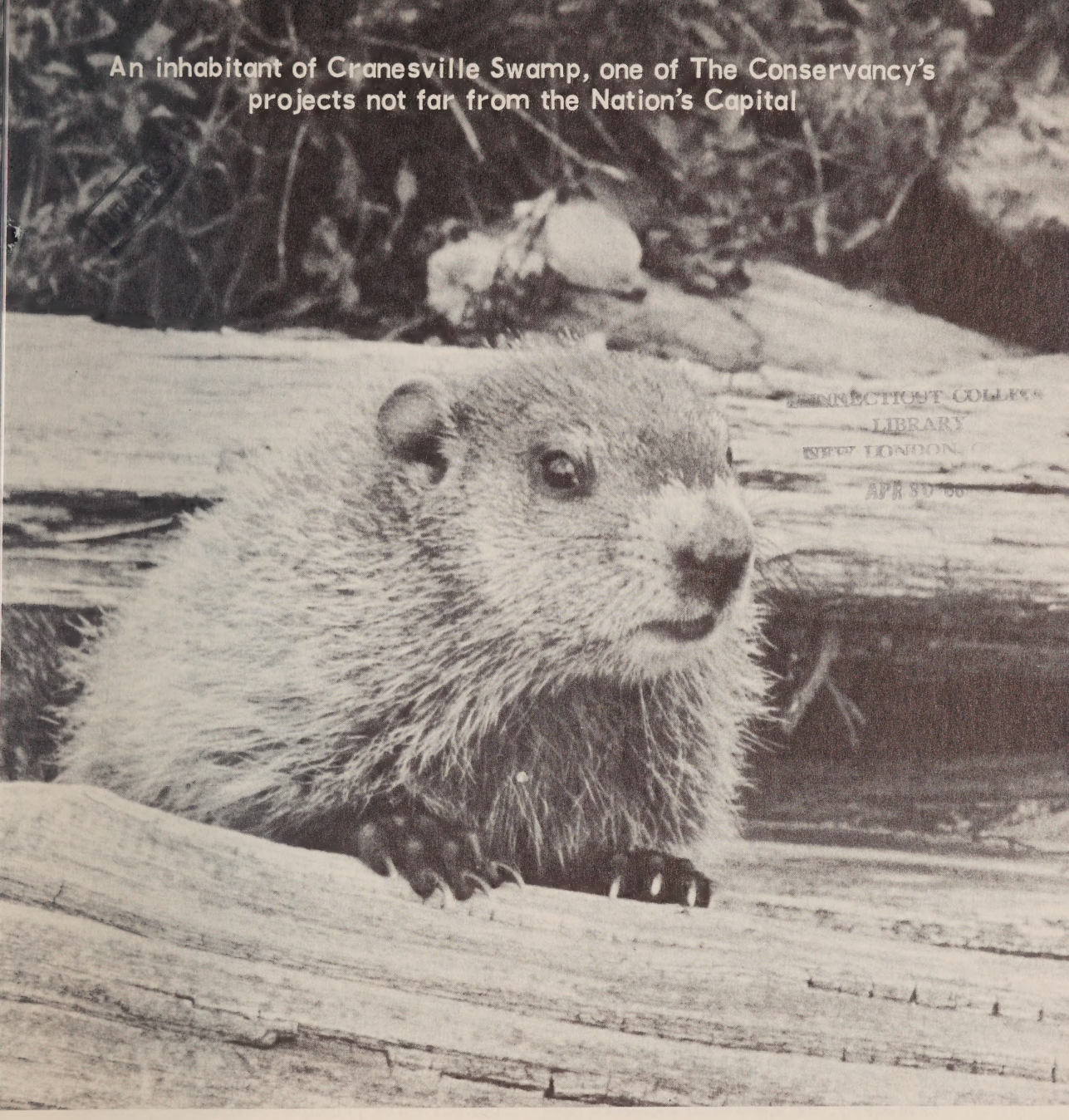

An inhabitant of Cranesville Swamp, one of The Conservancy's projects not far from the Nation's Capital

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS
A Publication of The Nature Conservancy

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President's Message

To all those interested in The Nature Conservancy and in conservation generally, the following report from your Executive Director should prove heartening. It reflects, in almost every aspect of our work, America's growing concern with the preservation of natural areas that have outstanding aesthetic or scientific interest.

But...the operations of The Nature Conservancy are seriously threatened by the difficulty of raising national funds.

Here are some figures that may interest you:

To date, gifts for operating expenses have amounted to only 3% of our total acquisitions. This is an insufficient amount to provide for adequate land studies, land management or to make possible many of our other functions.

To date, three donors alone have supplied 67% of all the operating funds of the Conservancy. If a single one of these donors should fail to renew this annual contribution, we would be in serious difficulties. Eight donors have supplied 73% of all our operating funds.

Conversely, the 4,000 other members have supplied only 3%.

As far as membership dues are concerned, look at these figures:

Out of a $5 annual membership, $3.50 is allocated to the chapter in whose area the member belongs. Out of the remaining $1.50 The Nature Conservancy must provide:

a) Regular mailings of The Nature Conservancy News.

b) Annual billing

c) Maintenance of membership

d) Maintenance of records for tax purposes.

From an accounting and tax point of view, these functions cannot economically be transferred to the chapters. Consequently, we barely break even on an annual membership and need extra donations from as many members as possible.

While land acquisition is our purpose--and we have been successful at it--we obviously have many other expenses to meet, particularly because the national organization has responsibilities to fulfill that make possible the efficient functioning of the chapters. To illustrate our present predicament, we are much like a university that has received many gifts of buildings, but has no funds for faculty salaries, janitor services, maintenance, and so forth. As you all know these costs are equally important for an effective operation.

This fall, we are attempting to launch a fund raising campaign. The total sums we need are not large in terms of a national organization, but they are considerably greater than anything we have ever raised before except from our three principal benefactors. Out of fairness to them, we must broaden the base of our support.

If you have any thoughts on this matter, I would appreciate your communicating with our Washington Office. Or, if you prefer, please write to me, personally, at 22 Newtown Turnpike, Westport, Connecticut. Any ideas of assistance that you could give me would be most welcome. In order to solve this major problem, I need the support of all of you.

ALEXANDER B. ADAMS
President

The Annual Report

At the 12th annual meeting of the Nature Conservancy which was held August 27-29, 1961 at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, the Executive Director chalked up some growth marks of which The Conservancy can be proud. His report follows:

A YEAR OF PROGRESS

Preservation of Natural Areas

All who have worked for The Nature Conservancy can share in a feeling of pride in what has been accomplished.

In the basic objective of natural area protection, 18 different areas have been brought under protection since the meeting at Stillwater, Oklahoma last August. In six other areas additional lands have been acquired either to round out preserves or to extend the lands being protected. In terms of land measure these 24 areas add 3,308 acres to holdings, bringing the total to 10,161 acres. In a sense, we can add the 3,600 acres of Bureau of Land Management timber which has been withdrawn from use in conjunction with our preserve on the Elder Creek watershed in California.

There are 105 projects which have been approved by the Board of Governors. Of these, 33 have been added during the year.

It is noted that in all three aspects of the land protection program, this represents an approximate fifty percent growth over the status of one year ago.

Membership

Last year a membership of "over 3,000" was reported with the comment that it had been nearly constant for the year. We now have a paid membership of 4,371.

Organizational Growth

The above mentioned fifty percent growth in preservation activities has been matched in chapter growth. Where there were sixteen last year, we now have 24 chapters. There is also one cooperating group in both years, the Michigan Natural Areas Council.

The Nature Conservancy now can be considered as active in all but six states. These are Rhode Island, South Carolina, Mississippi, Delaware, Kentucky and Nevada. There are natural area projects in all but fifteen of the states.

New Projects

At the April meeting of the Board of Governors, there was a proposal outlined for an approach to one hundred colleges to see what response there might be to a proposal to work directly with the colleges on the acquisition of natural areas. This is quite different from the work of the "Natural Areas for Schools" program mentioned later in this report. This seemed to be a good way to establish closer relations with colleges and to increase the number of sound projects that might be carried on. Obviously areas so acquired would be under closer supervision than the Washington office of The Nature Conservancy could provide. Of the one hundred letters sent to the colleges, twelve replies indicated an interest. However, three of those have resulted in specific proposals that were placed before the Board of Governors yesterday. It is believed that a follow-up will yield good results.

Staff and Office

One additional secretarial worker has been added to the staff to assist with the constantly increasing load which this expanding program has created.

On March first, two rooms with a total of 330 feet of floor space were added to office facilities. All who work at 2039 K Street deeply appreciate the convenience of this added space.

Publications

In publications, it was the time when our most ambitious production "The Vanishing Natural Areas of the United States" came from the printers. As the present director had nothing to do with it, he can, in all modesty call this one of the finest booklets produced in the field of natural area conservation. Due to the high cost, only 5,000 were printed, and we have distributed it only on request. The number of calls has continued to be large and the current supply will soon be exhausted.

The Nature Conservancy kits containing materials on encroachment, natural areas, and natural areas for schools, as well as materials for use by chapter officers, have seen substantial demand. This seems a long step forward.

The work on Policy Bulletin #2 has been finished. This is "The Nature Conservancy Policies for The Preservation, Care and Use of Natural Areas." It is ready for printer and should be ready for distribution shortly.

Governmental Cooperation

The action of the Bureau of Land Management in withdrawing timber land on the Elder Creek watershed for sale or use has been mentioned. It is now repeated because of the major implications lying behind this action. The viewpoints by Secretary Udall and Bureau Director Landstrom as expressed in their press release on the withdrawal, may well be construed as an invitation for The Nature Conservancy to sit down with the Department of the Interior in the development of cooperative ventures in conservation. The statements at that time backed by subsequent words and action have implications of almost unlimited potential. It is hoped that this opportunity may be carefully followed up in the year ahead.

In June 1961 the Executive Director was asked by officials of the New York State Department of Conservation to assist in the preservation of an area which they needed but could not acquire under the circumstances. We acted on less than 48 hours' notice and acquired a ten-acre parcel in Greene County, New York, which has subsequently been sold to the State. President Adams received a most cordial letter of appreciation from Commissioner Wilm. The Conservancy has by this action placed itself in a cooperative position with another important State Department of Conservation.

Natural Areas for Schools Report

Of almost as great importance as our preservation program is our work in education and support of school-sponsored activities. Dr. John W. Brainerd has filed a very interesting report, copies of which are available. In brief summary, it can be stated that a report entitled "Survey of Natural Areas for Schools in Florida," has been prepared and awaits printing and distribution. Similar studies are well along on Massachusetts and Maryland. Others being taken up are California and Oregon.

The Natural Areas for Schools Committee sponsored a session at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meetings in New York. The topic was "Research in School Natural Areas."

A personalized letter was sent by the Executive Director to the chief school official in each of the fifty states. His message told briefly of the objectives of The Nature Conservancy and asked the chief State Officer to name a person or persons in his organization with whom we might work. All but six states responded, many with letters of a cordial and cooperative nature. Thus we now have official representatives of educational administrators and plan to pursue this opportunity vigorously.

Cooperation with Audubon

It must be pointed out that The National Audubon Society has embarked upon a new and ambitious program of Nature Centers. It has long maintained an outstanding program of nature education and seems moving to do much more. Thus we welcome this powerful ally in camp. May it be added that we also recognize the good work of many other organizations including those in education as such.

The Crisis in Finance

This report can not be closed without one very serious note. Our growth in project, chapters and membership is excellent, but our funds for operating expenses have not kept pace. The next two years are crucial in the broadening and strengthening of our base of financial support. If there is not a very substantial increase in the number of contributors and the amount given for operating expenses we may find our program facing disaster.

Chapters

Current chapters are as follows:

Monterey Bay, Calif.	Orange-San Diego, Calif.
Southern California	Connecticut
Glastonbury, Conn.	Illinois
Indiana	Maine
Minnesota	Missouri
Eastern New York	Long Island, New York
Western New York	Ohio
Texas	Wisconsin

Cooperating Group:

Michigan Natural Areas Council

New Chapters 1960-1961:

Arizona
Arkansas
Northern California
Florida
Oregon
Vermont
Virginia
Washington

OFFICERS
AND
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Officers and board members were named at the August 27 meeting at Purdue. The current officers were all re-elected. They are:

President: Alexander B. Adams, Vice President of Bankers Trust Company, New York.

Vice-President: Dr. Conrad Chapman, Historian, Boston, Mass.

Secretary: Elting Arnold, general counsel, Inter-American Bank, Washington, D.C.

Treasurer: Charles N. Mason, a Federal Government budget officer, Washington, D.C.

New Board members elected are as follows:

George Collins, of San Francisco, California, although retired from the National Park Service, still participates widely in park affairs, and as a staff member of Conservation Associates, Inc., is engaged in setting up the first World Conference on Parks.

Dow Harvey, of Salisbury, Connecticut, after retiring from an active and successful business career, plans to devote much time and effort to conservation. Mr. Harvey's experience in business affairs, and his avocational interest in natural area preservation are notable.

Dr. John Pelton, currently on leave from Butler University, Indiana, has done botanical work on the West Coast, in the Rockies, and Midwest. Dr. Pelton has served as a trustee for Indiana Chapter, and now the Board of Governors will benefit from his ecological knowledge.

Mr. Monroe Bush is known to many of our members through his regular column "Reading About Resources" in the Magazine American Forests. Mr. Bush devotes his time to a wide range of civic, theological, cultural, and conservation matters. He is Assistant to the President of the Old Dominion Foundation.

Mr. John Shanklin is a Staff Assistant in the office of the Secretary of the Interior, a department of government that he has served for 28 years. Trained in forestry, Mr. Shanklin has served most ably for many years as Chairman of the Society of American Foresters' "Natural Areas Committee."

Mr. William Larrabee is serving as chairman of the Long Island Chapter and in the first year of his leadership three tracts of land have been donated for preservation. Outside his work as an executive with the Bell Telephone Company, Mr. Larrabee has been active on his local Board of Education, in Scouting, in conservation, and in his hobby of photography.

Mr. A. S. Rachal, Jr., Executive Assistant of the Virginia Department of Conservation brings a wide experience in the conservation field to the Board. Mr. Rachal, of Richmond, a member of our Virginia Chapter, works officially with the new State of Virginia natural areas system.

Mrs. Edward Ulrich, an active worker in conservation in Buffalo, N.Y., is currently Chairman of the Western New York Chapter. After retiring as a science teacher in the local school system, Mrs. Ulrich took the leadership in the preservation of the newly dedicated Deer Lick Sanctuary.

Retiring Board Members Ernest Brooks, Jr., Devin A. Garrity, M. Graham Netting, Aaron J. Sharp, and Daniel Smiley, will indeed be missed.

Western Administrative Board

At the June meeting of the Board of Governors, the Western Administrative Board was formed to deal with problems of those states served by the Western Regional Office. Members of that Board are: Dr. Curtis L. Newcombe, Chm., Dr. Herbert L. Mason, Co-Chm., Mr. George L. Collins, Dr. Joel Gustafson and Mrs. Richard Leonard.

Don Greame Kelley Appointed Western Regional Director

Mr. Don Greame Kelley, editor of "Pacific Discovery" of the California Academy of Science has been appointed Western Regional Director of The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Kelley will begin his work November first.

OBJECTIVES FOR

THE SIXTIES

Executive Director, Walter S. Boardman, outlined to the members attending the 12th annual meeting of the Nature Conservancy, August 27-29, at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, the objectives of the Nature Conservancy for the sixties.

Reviewing the history of the establishment of The Conservancy, Dr. Boardman emphasized that "the foundation laid by Mr. George Fell and others" when The Conservancy was incorporated in 1951, was very solid; the objectives established then are still valid and are the bases upon which we should build for the future."

He pointed out that the Sixties are certain to be a period of vanishing areas all over the world, owing largely to population problems relating to food supply and shelter. The urge to exploit resources will increase the pace and degree of destruction of areas we are trying to preserve for posterity.

The least excusable form and perhaps the most visible is the bulldozer, Dr. Boardman said, but the more dangerous menace comes from widely used insect and rodent control poisons.

On the brighter side, he said, is the growing awareness of the need for planning and the use of reason in land use and respect for the ecological balance of life. Conservation is gaining in prestige and support because of their stepped-up efforts in public information and education.

Relations with government agencies at all levels are important. Government agencies can and do play a vital role. The ideal situation would be one in which the understanding of the need for natural areas as felt by The Conservationists is combined with the support which government can give, as in the case where Secretary Udall urged private organizations and individuals to become partners with Government in preservation of historic sites and wildlands. The Interior Department so far has been very cooperative with the Nature Conservancy.

Some local governments could be more liberal in tax exemption for lands already acquired. State and local agencies could give aid and counsel in management and maintenance problems.

In the years ahead much more must be done in promoting the study of plant and animal communities and other phases of ecology, natural history and conservation. This is being done at Mianus River Gorge and Butler Memorial Sanctuary in Westchester County of New York State. The Long Island Chapter is doing outstanding work in this respect. But these cases are not typical. It is much easier to obtain money for the purchase of land than for protective and educational services.

There remains the objective in education to be considered. All work in conservation is of little value if it does not contribute to a better understanding of the basic principles involved. If by magic all people could be made to see the necessity of improving our renewable resources, the wise use of non-renewable resources and the safeguard of nature's balance, we would need only to support law enforcement to punish those whose greed tempted them to cast aside judgment. However, there is no magic way and the voice of the conservationist is apt to be lost in the tumult of other public affairs, well confused already by the commercially sponsored trivia that clutters every medium of communication.

The Nature Conservancy has a program of school cooperation known as "Natural Areas for Schools." It has been promoted to teach the importance of natural growth and change as contrasted with the controlled operation of land which we see on every side. It is hoped that this work may be greatly expanded and that the teaching of young and old the lessons learned from an undisturbed area will be accepted as a part of general education. Other leading organizations are becoming very active in the field of public school education and some reorganization of activities has become necessary. Perhaps here, in the matter of direct education more than in any other objective for the sixties, the role to be played by The Nature Conservancy must be determined by changing times and relationship with other associations.

If our civilization is to survive, the work of The Nature Conservancy, as outlined in its objectives of 1951, must be carried on successfully. Whether it be by public and private enterprise, by one powerful organization or the united efforts of many; regardless of the form of any agency that may come into being, the work of acquiring natural areas and preserving them for the good of mankind must go on. More important still is the matter of understanding by man of his true relationship to all life upon the earth.

YOUTH WINS AWARD

ABOUT CONSERVANCY PROJECT

An ecological study by 16-year-old Read Miller, Vista, California, recently won him a second prize in the zoology section at the Greater San Diego Science Fair. The study was about the Lieutenant Maxon Brown Bird Sanctuary, an early enthusiast for preserving the bird sanctuary lagoon near the city of Oceanside, which is now under the ownership of the Nature Conservancy.

In his study, Read undertook to enumerate the bird life of a typical, coastal lagoon; to determine the factors influencing their habitat; to study the natural history of the birds; and to observe an ecological problem in action.

He undertook the study as a biology class assignment. Armed with extra powerful camera lenses he photographed the birds -- domestic birds, coots, duck, heron, cormorant, grebe, plover, gull, pelican, and others, as well as photos of the general landscape and its vegetation. He made a detailed map of the lagoon to go with his 17-page report.

Since the Science Fair award, Read, a former Boy Scout with a merit badge in Nature, has been requested to talk to clubs and groups. The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce borrowed his material for their exhibit at the San Diego County Fair.

Read will be a junior in high school this fall. He reports his interests as being wrestling, swimming, SCUBA diving, boxing and hiking. He has been on the school's honor roll for the past two years.

AUDUBON BROADENS BASE

WITH NATURE CENTERS

by

Joseph J. Shomon
Director, Nature Centers Division
National Audubon Society

Editor's note: Mr. Shomon is former Chief of the education division and editor, Virginia Wildlife Magazine, Virginia Commission of Game & Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Va.

A new and vigorous program of nature centers and conservation education is taking shape in America. By virtue of a merger between the long-established and well-known National Audubon Society and the young Nature Centers for Young America, Inc., a broader, more fully coordinated program for nature centers and conservation education is being developed at the community level.

The purpose of the new Division is to stimulate interest in the natural world and in the wise, constructive use of all of our natural resources. Operating at the local level primarily, it seeks to encourage and assist local communities -- through the work of private organizations, educational institutions, government agencies and industry -- in setting aside natural or undeveloped lands and establishing thereon interpretive centers where dynamic programs in the natural sciences and conservation education can be effected.

Three principal objectives or goals are envisioned. The first is to help American communities help themselves in saving and preserving natural or undeveloped parcels of our land heritage near urban communities and seeing to it that these samples of nature are utilized to the maximum for conservation education purposes. Second, to supply professional information and guidance to those organizations, agencies, or industrial concerns who already own land, on how they can use a portion of their properties for nature and conservation education centers. Thirdly, the division seeks to cooperate with all land use, educational and conservation groups and agencies in the promulgation of better and more fully coordinated programs of resource use education, particularly in the use of the outdoors as dynamic teaching areas for natural sciences and conservation.

How does the new Division of the National Audubon Society hope to accomplish its objectives? Largely in one essential way: by supplying expert information and education to individuals and groups in the community. The Division does not make loans nor does it get involved in any way with land ownership or community action programs. The services are primarily those of professional counsel and guidance.

Much of the expert advice the Division supplies is offered through the use of certain communications media, such as publications, films and correspondence. Some use is made of radio and TV. Where real interest and needs are manifest, field personnel actually visit the community and supply direct advice and guidance on land acquisition, fund raising, development and programing.

Let us suppose, for example, a community shows some interest in preserving a piece of natural land and making it a sort of place where, under proper guidance and direction, the young and old can learn something of the natural world and principles that underlie conservation. There is, we suppose, a nucleus of local interest; there may be a building available on the land and some possibility of raising money. How does one start? Where can one get professional advice on what to do, how to go about getting something done? What must one have, what pitfalls should the community avoid, what about the legal aspects? Furthermore, just what is a nature center and how does it work? What are its programs? What will all this cost? Can the community afford a center, and who is to run it? These are only some of the questions the NC Division is prepared to answer. Already many, many communities have had just such questions answered and quite a number have begun or are well along the road to establishing nature and conservation centers.

The need for outdoor centers for the teaching of nature study and conservation is self-evident. As our population shifts from rural lands to the cities and suburbs -- as it is doing today at an alarming rate -- the young as well as the old will have less and less contact with our natural environment. How can nature appreciation and the conservation of natural resources have any real meaning unless there is at least some personal and direct contact with the natural animate and inanimate world. Here is where our parcels of natural land or green islands of nature come in. Here is where urban Americans, for a time at least, can use their various perceptive senses in learning something of nature and man's utter need and dependence on natural resources, including the respect and reverence toward our land that is so much a part of the philosophy of conservation.

Nature and conservation education centers, then, are a tool of learning -- modern learning where every new window to God's own land is a gateway to greater personal knowledge, growth, enjoyment and achievement.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

WITH A CONSERVATION APPROACH

A small group of conservation-minded professional and business men have acquired Little Cumberland Island off Brunswick, Georgia, with the intention of establishing appropriate homesites while maintaining the integrity of the landscape. The island, bordered by the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean, contains 2200 acres of live oak, pine, palmetto, holly and salt marsh. It combines high terrain with several miles of wide, sand beach. It is, perhaps, the last completely unexploited wilderness area now available along the Atlantic coast. The new owners have the advice of Richard H. Pough, leading conservationist, ornithologist and naturalist, in an attempt to maintain its natural character and yet permit controlled construction of a limited number of residences. It is also planned to place considerable acreage under conservation and possible use of Nature Conservancy as the vehicle to accomplish this purpose is under discussion.

Little Cumberland is part of the Georgia Archipelago containing Sea Island, Saint Simon's, Sapelo, Jekyll and Big Cumberland Islands. Privately held for generations and inaccessible by automobile, Little Cumberland is in its original state, a sanctuary for wildlife which will continue to be protected.

The new owners, Southeastern Properties, Inc., 1422 Union Street, Brunswick, Georgia, acquired the island from the New Riverside Company at a price of $400,000 and intend to sell certain desirable areas to conservation-minded people in not less than two-acre plots. Plans call for a yacht basin and construction of a marina on the Intracoastal Waterway side of the island.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Approximately 100 towns in Massachusetts now have local conservation commissions, according to a report from the Connecticut Nature Conservancy Chapter.

Success of the movement in Massachusetts has stimulated similar action in Connecticut and efforts are being made to push through the Connecticut legislature a bill to permit towns to set up these commissions.

Local conservation commissions have an opportunity to alert citizens to the importance of natural resources and their conservation. They can also stimulate pride in a town's heritage of natural beauty, and encourage a community-wide conservation conscience.

The bill to permit local conservation commissions has the support of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. It will, upon request, assist local commissions to plan their programs. This Department is now preparing a manual for Conservation Commissions to be published late this fall.

NEW YORK GETS AREA ACQUIRED BY CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy's value and foresight as a nature preservation agency is well illustrated by the following announcement released to the press on August 25, by Conservation Commissioner Harold G. Wilm:

An agreement has been made with The Nature Conservancy of Washington, D.C. for the acquisition of the former Rip's Retreat property in the towns of Catskill and Hunter (Green County) at a cost of $25,000.

The 10-acre site, which is nationally famous for its scenic view of the Hudson River and the Catskills, is being purchased as an addition to the Department's North Lake Campsite which adjoins the property. Funds will be available from the $75 million bond issue that is part of Governor Rockefeller's program for expanding park and other outdoor recreational facilities for the people of the State.

The Nature Conservancy bought the property at a public auction in June for $25,000 and is turning it over to the State at purchase price plus expenses. The group is a national nonprofit organization whose objective is to preserve appropriate lands for conservation purposes.

"We are most grateful to The Nature Conservancy for its cooperation in helping to make this 'gem of the Catskills' a place that all our people can enjoy," Commissioner Wilm said. "It's a valuable addition to our growing public recreation program."

The western boundary of the property is almost on the shoreline of North Lake, adjoining the public campsite's bathing beach. Half of the property, the Commissioner noted, is on top of the escarpment east of the lake. Its panoramic view of the Hudson and Catskills has been rated as one of America's most beautiful vistas by many of the nation's leading travel writers, he said.

THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL

Harold R. Hochmuth, associate director of the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of Interior, recently told a western group that man is at odds with his environment and "as our population and society expand we find that greater pressures are being placed on the land -- it must provide and produce more, and we must use it in new ways." The remark was made in an address before the Range Resources Committee of Western Agricultural Economics Resources Council meeting at Fort Collins, Colorado.

Hochmuth pointed out that the President directed the Departments to develop a program of balanced usage designed to reconcile the conflicting uses -- grazing, forestry, recreation, wildlife, urban development, and minerals. "Why are these in conflict?" he asked. "Is our resource base becoming limited on these wide open spaces? We have reached deep down into our barrel of lands and resources and we are getting occasional glimpses of the bottom. This makes us look around at what we have done with the lands and resources already removed from the barrel. And what do we see? Rivers and lakes polluted from the products of man's economic activity and from his abuse of the soil mantle. Disappearing open space. Overcrowded parks. A vanishing shoreline. The displacement of migratory waterfowl. Dwindling opportunities for outdoor recreation. And sprawling subdivisions eating into our spaces at an alarming rate. Those of us who are actively engaged in the planning and conservation of our lands are concerned."

Resources for Tranquility

"... It is imperative to maintain portions of the wilderness untouched, so that a tree will rot where it falls, a waterfall will pour its curve without generating electricity, a trumpeter swan may float on uncontaminated water--and moderns may at least see what their ancestors knew in their nerves and blood."

--Bernard de Voto

Conservancy Project Is Boreal Island

A boreal island pocketed in the Maryland -West Virginia mountains is one of the more interesting Nature Conservancy projects recently visited by the executive director.

It is a bit of Canadian swamp astride the Preston County line, a little more than 100 miles from Washington. Late in 1959, The Conservancy acquired some 260 acres roughly in the middle of about 800 acres left by the last Ice Age. Known as the Cranesville Swamp, it is located about one mile from Swallow Falls, Maryland, State Forest.

Representing a northern island in a southern latitude there is found here both plants and animals of Canadian regions.

The successful efforts to save this "Canada in the South" was spearheaded by a group of Maryland, West Virginia and District of Columbia people, aided by the national office of The Nature Conservancy.

How did a place so different from the surrounding fauna and flora come into existence?

During the million or so years the "island" has existed, there have been four ice ages. While the jagged contours of the glaciers did not themselves penetrate so far south -- the terminus was roughly along a parallel across the northern Allegheny River -- the side effects of the monstrous ice sheets were deeply felt here. The Pliocene animals retreated, some as far south as Florida; and the flora shriveled and died from the intense cold. During the thousands of years of the inter-glacial periods the animals returned and the flora slowly came to life again.

One of the best accounts of the Cranesville Pine Swamp is given by Romeo Mansueti, staff member of the Maryland Department of Research and Education at the State's Solomon's Island fisheries research laboratory, in the April-June, 1958, Atlantic Naturalist, published by the Audubon Society in Washington.

Mr. Mansueti points out that the Cranesville Swamp, a montane bog that straddles the Garrett County, Maryland-Preston County, West Virginia line, is one of the least known and most fascinating natural habitats in the Middle Atlantic States. Located on the Allegheny Plateau in the Appalachian Province, this area is the southernmost point in the distribution of American larch, or tamarack, Larix laricina. Of perhaps even greater interest is its classification as part of the Canadian Biotic Province, a life-zone characteristically inhabited by plants and animals of boreal, or northern, regions. It is literally an anachronistic fragment of a vast evergreen forest that followed in the wake of the retreating glaciers.

Although Mr. Mansueti estimates that the spot the swamp occupies must have existed for at least a million years, the age of the present area has been dated at about 7,500 years B.C. A clue to this figure was given recently by micropaleobotanists who examined the pollen from ancient trees preserved in the Cranberry glades in southeastern West Virginia, not very far from Cranesville. The fossil record of this area that is ecologically similar to the Cranesville Swamp indicated that after the last glacier retreated from eastern North America, a tundra flora developed and then gave way to a massive spruce-fir forest. This forest has left traces in the form of recognizable pollen grains in the postglacial sediments usually formed in peat bogs and on lake bottoms. On the basis of such evidence Professor G. Evelyn Hutchinson of Yale stated that the forest at Cranberry Glades was about 10,000 years old.

Mr. Mansueti writes that in addition to the "wonderful biotic features of the pine swamp, the Cranesville anticline is also of interest. This geological formation consists of an upfold or arch of stratified rock. Its axis cuts through the town of Cranesville in a southwesterly direction. Most of the anticline, especially the western and southern limits of the fold, is in West Virginia."

Anyone interested in what the area was like before interference from civilization, Mr. Mansueti points out, should read the rich and vivid descriptions left by Meshach Browning in his remarkable book, Forty-four Years of the Life of a Hunter, and Frederick Gustavus Skinner in Turf, Field and Farm.

Browning lived and hunted in Garrett County from about 1790 to 1835. He reported extensively of his pursuits after eastern black bears, whitetail deer, eastern cougars, timber wolves, eastern bobcats, and other game in the thick laurel bogs, one of which was almost certainly the present site of the Cranesville Swamp. Although he lived near Bear Creek, Mr. Mansueti states that we know definitely that he caught good numbers of eastern brook trout from Muddy Creek, which drains the central part of the Cranesville Swamp (see map: courtesy of the Washington Audubon Society). Skinner hunted and fished throughout Garrett County for several

months and left a remarkably detailed record of the natural history of the mountain swamps.

Mr. Mansueti gives other records of the Cranesville area. No naturalist should fail to review, he says, the half-century old observations on the swamp flora given by Forrest Shreve, aided by M. A. Chrysler, F. H. Blodgett, and F. W. Besley, in their monumental ecological work, The Plant Life of Maryland, published in 1910. He added that their "careful and critical observations are of great historical value." After Shreve's investigations in the Cranesville bog, no one showed much interest in the area until F. W. Besley noted it in the Maryland section of the magnificent compilation, Naturalist's Guide to the Americas, published in 1926 by The Ecological Society of America, forerunner of The Nature Conservancy.

"The late J. E. Harned, a well-known pharmacist in Oakland, Garrett County, and author of Wild Flowers of the Alleghenies, published in 1931," Mr. Mansueti writes, "told me, in September, 1950, when I stopped in his store to purchase his book, that he lamented greatly the eventual loss of the Cranesville bog to the ravages of logging and agriculture."

Mr. Mansueti himself gives several pages of lists of the present-day flora and fauna. He urges interested naturalists to visit the locality and explore it thoroughly, as well as discreetly, for, as he said at that time, "it is private land."

In view of the loss of the Thayersville Swamp and the thinning out of the Wolf Gap bogs in the area, the natural history of the Cranesville bog strongly shows the need to perpetuate this island, he wrote. He pointed out that Merriam predicted more than 50 years ago how these areas would deteriorate, as follows:

"The cutting off of the spruce and hemlock from these small boreal islands lets in the hot sun and results, in numerous instances, in changing the fauna and flora from Canadian to Alleghanian."

Mr. Mansueti said that the nostalgia and sadness with which the late Dr. Harned expressed his feelings about the probable razing of Cranesville Swamp "made a deep impression on me.... and a question came to mind: are local naturalists interested enough to fight for its preservation? Tomorrow will be too late."

Better late than never, is our editorial comment. We of The Nature Conservancy congratulate those who first discovered the need to preserve this boreal island shrouded in the midst of time; and are proud to have had a part in preserving for posterity at least a part of it. As much as anything the story of Cranesville Swamp illustrates the need for The Conservancy and its constant and energetic support of people who give their time, energy and funds to help nature help itself in our increasingly mechanized world.

LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS

For Fiscal Year July 1, 1960 Through June 30, 1961

Mrs. Alexander B. Adams
Mrs. George W. Adams
Mrs. John H. Bocock
Miss E. A. Burrows
Mrs. Philip P. Chase
Mrs. George L. Clements
Charles W. Deeds
Mrs. Moya del Pino
Mrs. Raymond H. Goodrich
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Mrs. Spencer R. Keare
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Dr. Grace E. Pickford
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Vernon Tree
Alexander O. Vietor
Mrs. Frank H. Woods

BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S BRIEFS

At the annual meeting of the Board of Governors at Purdue University, August 28, 1961, the following actions were taken:

Approved a loan of $3,100 to acquire the "Altamont" Prairie as a natural area for use by the South Dakota State College at Brookings. Dr. Bryon E. Harrell, the South Dakota representative of The Nature Conservancy, proposed acquisition of the 64 acres in Deuel County. The project would be the first one to be acquired under the Conservancy's natural areas for colleges program. The tract is tall grass prairie with slope aspects, prairie hydrospere, and a small wooded area and has an intermittent small stream. It is one of the very few unplowed prairie areas in the eastern South Dakota-western Minnesota region.

Approved project goal of $4,000 for the first Conservancy project in Maine. The chapter has an option on a 20-acre tract known as "Step Falls" in Oxford County, 15 miles northwest of Bethel on Route 26. The area contains a falling stream in rich woods of mixed, old second growth with some 1,000 feet of rapids, water-smoothed ledges, glacial boulders, deep pools and pot holes. The area is suitable for an undeveloped park. It is in an area including Grafton Notch that the State Park Commission wishes to acquire. The Maine Chapter proposed acquisition of Step Falls with the understanding that the Conservancy will convey it to the State Park Commission when funds have been raised. The Park Commission does not have funds available now for this purchase. It would be turned over to the Park Commission under an appropriate reverter clause.

Authorized the executive director to make all necessary arrangements for transfer of title to Pine Hills, a heavily-wooded ravine, to the State of Indiana under conditions set forth in previous resolutions on this project, but without regard to the completion of fund-raising for the project, and after an appropriate report to the Board.

Adopted a resolution of "deep gratitude" of The Nature Conservancy to Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Berry, Indianola, Iowa, for the donation of 42 acres of land in Warren County between Indianola and Des Moines. The tract is deciduous mixed woodland, mainly white oak and hickory, with a variety of other tree species and a rich wildflower display. The area has been uncut commercially for more than 50 years. There has been a minimum amount of erosion and the problems of trespass, hunting and exotics are thought to be minimal. The area is fenced. It is currently used by Simpson College for biological field work and two members of its staff have agreed to serve on a proposed project committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Berry.

FIRST WISCONSIN CHAPTER PROJECT IS ABRAHAM'S WOODS

Abraham's Woods, a botanist's paradise in Greene County, Wisconsin, is being acquired for use by the University of Wisconsin scientists as the first project of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, organized during June of 1960.

Most of the $11,610 total purchase price for Abraham's Woods still must be raised, and contributions may be made either to the Wisconsin Chapter or to the national headquarters. The Conservancy has authorized a loan of $9,000 to the project from the Matching and Loan Fund pending receipt of contributions.

Abraham's Woods is a bit of climax forest, nature's ultimate development. It has chiefly sugar maple and basswood trees. Encircling hills protected it from prairie fires and their drainage moistened the rich soil. Shade and moisture fostered profuse vegetation, including many spring flowers. This ground flora is the woods' outstanding feature. University of Wisconsin botanists and students have used the place as a laboratory for years. Pictures and results of studies appear in Curtis' 1959 book, "The Vegetation in Wisconsin."

Some trees and colonies of trout lilies are about 300 years old. When a windfall maple was sawed up some time ago, a century-old notch was exposed, evidently cut by Indians to collect sap. Although Ben Abraham of Albany used the entire tract as a sugar bush, it consisted of five parcels with nine owners.

Chairman Paul Olson, a Madison school principal and a state conservation commissioner said the chapter's next project may be a beech woods near Milwaukee. A sample of Kenosha prairie and a bog near Cambridge also are high on the priority list.

Other officers of the chapter are Mrs. Dixie Larkin, vice-chairman; Professor Joseph J. Hickey, Madison, secretary; and William E. Sieker, Madison attorney, treasurer.

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

TO DISCUSS PESTICIDE FISH KILL

At its annual meeting in Memphis, September 14 and 15, the American Fisheries Society expects to form a committee to discuss the proposed use of a rotenone-based poison by Utah and Wyoming fish and game authorities to poison so-called trash fish in the Green River in order to provide opportunity for the growth of suitable game fish.

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists at its 41st annual meeting in Austin on March 30 approved a resolution against poisoning of "more than 475 miles of the Green River and its tributaries in southwestern Wyoming and northwestern Utah to get rid of five species of native minnows, suckers and carp."

The resolution added that:

"The proposed massive destruction by unselective poison (rotenone base) of major aquatic life of the Green River and its tributaries may well mean extinction for certain species. The objective sought -- the production of a good sport fishery of exotic species (rainbow trout and kokanee salmon) -- is likely to have only temporary success, requiring retreatment. Moreover, there is no guarantee that the downstream part of Green River, even including the section that traverses Dinosaur National Monument -- less than 50 miles away -- will not suffer irreparable damage to its aquatic organisms. Nor is there any means of preventing this damage since the flow of the Green River cannot be legally cut off at Flaming Gorge Dam. Between Green River, Wyoming, and Jenson, Utah, within the section to be poisoned, lie the last sizable refuge areas for the huge Colorado squawfish (Ptychocheilus lucius), which is of special interest as the largest North American minnow; and the bizarre humpback chub (Gila cypha), restricted to swift waters in the Colorado River basin. Also endangered in this area is another diminishing Colorado endemic, the humpback sucker (Xyrauchen texanus)."

The resolution concluded with the statement that the society was opposed to "any program undertaken in the name of management that proposes to destroy the native fauna of an entire stream, or large natural lake, especially where endemic species will be eliminated forever."

Pointing up the problem there appeared in the American Fisheries Society Newsletter of June-July, 1961, an article by O. L. Wallis, aquatic biologist with the National Park Service.

He wrote that the widespread use of fish toxicants to control "undesirable" fish populations has become "an effective and an accepted fishery management tool, the use of which has rarely been questioned."

On the other hand, he said, the uncontroled and unregulated use of this management tool threatens to result in the elimination or serious reduction in numbers of unique endemic forms of North American fish fauna. Native fishes deserve consideration as part of the natural wildlife heritage which our society should feel responsible to preserve and protect. Any form of life, the product of long, evolutionary struggles, and part of the entire ecological environment is too significant to be needlessly and thoughtlessly discarded without cause. Over the years of American settlement many forms of animal life, including a distressing number of fishes, have become extinct at the "hands of civilization" by design or by accident. It is vital that measures be employed to guarantee that additional forms do not pass from our waters.

Dr. Wallis recommended that consideration be given to recommendations made by Dr. George Myers, Stanford University, and Robert M. Jenkins, formerly with the Sport Fishing Institute, that a joint committee be set up by the American Fisheries Society and the Ichthyologists Society to be known as the "Committee on Fish Conservation" to identify endangered endemic fish forms, to guard against indiscriminate use of fish toxicants by fishery agencies, and to create a better understanding and appreciation of native fishes among administrators, fishery biologists, and fishermen.

As a beginning of the effort to lay down "ground rules" to cover the situation, Dr. Wallsi suggested:

1. Adequate investigations of waters proposed for chemical control of fish populations to determine abundance of each species; to determine if actual "competition" exists between sport and non-game forms; to anticipate the lasting ecological changes which may be brought about by treatment programs versus long-term benefits to recreational angling.

2. Evaluate ways and means by which chemical treatment may be undertaken to minimize detrimental effects to endemic forms if chemical treatment is considered necessary, on balance.

3. Provide for continuing adequate follow-up investigations if and when chemical programs are undertaken.

RAPID ADVANCES IN NATURAL AREA ACQUISITION BY CHAPTERS

Connecticut -- A gift of approximately 13 acres of forest land on Taine Mountain, Unionville, Connecticut, was donated by Mr. John Dunning, Treasurer of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, as the first gift of land on this scenic mountain. Additional tracts of land are being sought for this preserve.

The Glastonbury Branch Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has received a gift of five acres of land in Cotton Hollow which was donated by Miss Amy Pratt on the condition that an additional acreage will be acquired for this preserve.

Minnesota -- Title to the Winger Savanna, an 80-acre tall grass prairie with oak openings and sand blowouts, has been acquired by the Minnesota Chapter in the name of the Conservancy. It is expected that the savanna will serve a valuable research purpose because of its proximity to the famous Cedar Creek Research area. The $3,500 needed for the acquisition of this area was raised in record time through the able leadership of Dr. Donald Lawrence, project chairman.

The Chapter is still busily engaged in efforts to acquire another prairie tract in the northwestern corner of Minnesota near Crookston. This 80-acre tract of prairie is an island of virgin grassland in an otherwise intensely developed farming region. Because of its value as agricultural land, the cost of acquisition is relatively high. A number of small contributions have started to come in, but as yet nearly the full purchase price of $12,000 has to be raised in order to meet the purchase contract recently signed. Members and friends in the northwestern plains states should make every effort to support the preservation of this significant prairie preserve.

Missouri -- An upland sinkhole pond in Reynolds County, Missouri, called "Lily Pond" was recently donated to The Nature Conservancy by Mr. Frank Marsland of Saugatuck, Connecticut. The pond contains rare plants more typical of the Gulf coastal regions than of the Ozark Mountains, and this site was recommended as one of the most important small natural areas by the well-known Missouri botanist, Dr. Julian Steyermark. Leo Drey, Trustee of the Missouri Chapter, and Project Chairman Robert Doerr who worked for three years on various legal aspects of this project, deserve major credit for the establishment of this preserve.

Massachusetts -- Word has just been received that the first parcel of land at Black Pond, a boreal bog surrounded by white cedar, near Norwell, Massachusetts, has been acquired.

Ohio -- The Ohio Chapter has obtained options for $50,000 on the area known as Dysart Woods. This is one of the few, if not the only remaining stands of true virgin timber in Ohio. The woods contain mostly white oak and tulip poplars and a few beech trees. One large tulip poplar was estimated to be 15 feet in circumference.

POLICY BULLETIN NO. 2 NOW AVAILABLE

Policy Bulletin No. 2, "Nature Conservancy Policies for the Preservation, Care, and Use of Natural Areas" has just been printed. Copies may be obtained by writing The Nature Conservancy, 2039 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

The manual comes after a long period of study and work by the National Area Policy Committee under the leadership of Mr. Daniel Smiley. It deals with the many questions that are being raised in connection with the custodianship of natural areas. Such lands held in trust for long range public values by a membership society such as ours is a relatively new concept and produces new problems of management.

The manual takes a courageous look at these.

EDITORIAL NOTE

As you can see, we are still experimenting with The Nature Conservancy News. We are trying to issue a better bulletin at lower costs--if that is possible! We have changed printing firms at a considerable saving. We need your continued comments, critical and otherwise, both on format and content.

Naturally, we cannot please everyone, all the time. But we shall continue to try to do the best job we can with our limited resources.

In addition to your comments, we need your ideas about stories and articles and pictures. Keep our needs before you and help us make your bulletin better in every way.

The Editor

A CONSERVATION CONSCIENCE

(Editor's Note: This editorial appeared in June, 1961, Newsletter of The Connecticut Nature Conservancy Chapter. It was reprinted in The Cape Codder, a local newspaper covering eight towns on the Cape. We think it should have a wider distribution, and that our readers will appreciate the point of view expressed. It is also an indication of the growing public awareness of the necessity of nature preservation.)

It is not often that the conservationist has an opportunity to document the step-by-step attrition that leads to the destruction of a natural area and its particular plants and animals. For instance, no one knows exactly when the last moose roamed the Massachusetts bogs, or when the last native wild turkey succumbed to Bay State progress.

We have some record of things as they used to be -- and we can guess when this or that change took place. But a chronology of change is rare. This year, however, we have the dubious distinction of reporting just such a change -- the filling of the last marsh in Melrose, and with it the elimination of the Redwinged Blackbird as a breeding bird in that suburban city.

The immediate reaction of many will be "so what?" The informed skeptic will point out that there are still Redwings nesting just across the town line in Saugus, and besides, the Redwing is one of the commonest birds in New England. The out-and-out skeptic will say, "If the choice is a buck in my pocket or a bird in a marsh -- I'll take a buck!"

These may be reasonable rebuttals if it were only Redwings that were involved, but it is not. The loss of nesting Redwings in Melrose is the symptom rather than the disease -- our concern is with a generally accepted philosophy which allows the continuing destruction of natural areas without a thought of consequences that extend beyond today. Why should any community destroy all of its natural assets and thus force other communities to shoulder their share of providing a decent world for the future? Why should other towns, whose citizens and leaders are aware of their responsibilities, be forced to provide the recreational and aesthetic opportunities for the future citizens of negligent towns?

Wherein lies the responsibility of each of us to tomorrow's children? The filling in of this last bit of marshland can probably be justified in the eyes of many on a short-sighted here-and-now economy. But economy which does not recognize other values is not a legacy which future generations will appreciate.

OPEN SPACES AND NATURAL AREAS LEAFLETS AVAILABLE

Several hundred mimeograph leaflets on open spaces and natural areas' preservation problems are available from The Natural Area Council, 33 Highland Avenue, Pelham, New York.

Written in terse and simple prose by Mr. Richard Pough, former president of The Nature Conservancy, the titles of the leaflets are varied, ranging from the values of open spaces and natural areas to both the public and scientific investigators to ways by which all of us can tackle the problems of preserving natural areas in our communities.

Mr. Pough will be glad to send a list of the titles if you write to him at the above address.

AUTOS BIGGEST DEER KILLERS

In the off-hunting season, highway mishaps is the greatest killer of deers, according to a recent bulletin of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

Deer project personnel of the State report that non-season deer mortalities are still running above last year.

The latest period for which figures are available covers January through June 30. In the recent six-month period, 433 mortalities were recorded, compared with 357 in the State for the same time in 1960.

This year deer mortalities are still being led by highway mishaps, which accounted for 188 animal deaths, 31 of which accrued during June. Dogs accounted for 82 deer; illegal kills, 50; fences, 13; trains, seven; miscellaneous causes such as drownings, mowing machines, 34; undetermined causes, 51; and those killed on crop damage permits, eight.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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CONSERVANCY MEMBERS MAY GET FREE COPIES OF INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

An action of the Board of Governors has made it possible for members of The Nature Conservancy to receive free copies of the Bulletin of the International Union for Conservation and Natural Resources.

The IUCN is composed of States, public services, Government Departments and national and international organizations.

Dr. Harold J. Coolidge, National Research Council, Washington, D.C., is a vice president.

Dr. Edward H. Graham, Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, is a member of the Executive Board.

Office of the editor, Marguerite Caram, is 31 rue Vautier, Brussels, Belgium.

The Nature Conservancy headquarters -- 2039 K Street, Washington, D.C. -- receives a limited number of this excellent international bulletin, which records natural history activities and developments all over the world, and a copy will be sent to members upon request.

We wish to remind our readers that any member wishing a copy of the minutes of the annual membership meeting may obtain it from the Washington office, 2039 K St., N.W.

At the August meeting of the Board of Governors there was discussion and great concern about "Project Chariot" and the proposal to conduct an atomic test under land and water explosion off the coast of Alaska. Several organizations including Greater St. Louis Citizens Committee for Nuclear Information point out that because of diet, "strontium 90" found in the bones of Eskimos is already several times that of other peoples and it is felt that great harm to both plant and animal life may result from this test if carried out. Those interested may obtain further information by writing to:

The Greater St. Louis Citizens
Committee for Nuclear Information
6504 Delmar Boulevard
St. Louis 30, Missouri

MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVANCY PROJECTS

The executive director reported to the Board of Governors at the Purdue meeting that one of the most serious problems facing The Nature Conservancy is that of adequate supervision of currently-owned properties.

A good job is being done by some chapters. In some cases there is complete neglect.

He reported on a recent trip that he made to one of the Conservancy's projects. There were no signs along the access road. There were no boundary markers. A power company whose transmission line ran through the center of the tract had used plant spray that had killed everything on both sides of the line over a very wide area.

The Chapter Manual and the Policy Statement on Natural Areas covers this situation. What we need, the executive director said, are volunteers who will see to it that the rules are observed. Time does not permit a staff inspection of all projects each year. However, it is not the inspection alone that is important but the follow-up. He asked each member of the Board of Governors to take responsibility for projects within a certain area before October meeting of the Board and to make a report at that time.